

City of Mansfield
MINUTES OF *REGULAR* PUBLIC MEETING
June 10, 2019

The Board of Aldermen met in *regular* session on **June 10th**, in Mansfield City Hall located at 705 Polk Street. Mayor Mayweather called the meeting to order at **4:30 p.m.**, after which an Invocation was offered by **Alderman Mitchell L. Lewis**. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by **Alderwoman Mary J. Green**. Following the pledge, the roll call was suspended. However, the following officials were recorded as **Present**: Hon. John Mayweather, Sr., -**Mayor**, Mary J. Green –District **A**, Mitchell L. Lewis –District **C**, and Kervin D. Campbell –District **E**. **Absent**: Christopher S. Thomas –District **B** and Joseph Hall, Jr. –District **D**. **City Hall Personnel, Dept. Heads, & Other City Personnel Present**: Gwendolyn Jones (Deputy Clerk), Annette Blue (Chief –Mansfield Police Dept.), Billy Locke (Asst. Chief –Mansfield Police Dept.), Latarsha Shelton (Chief –Mansfield Fire Dept.), Bryan Ross (Capt. –Mansfield Fire Dept.), Christopher Samuels (Mansfield Fire Dept.), and Logan Calhoun (Mansfield Fire Dept.). **Others Present**: Mark Pierce (Network Administrator -DeSoto Parish Sheriff’s Office), John Barr (Regional Director –Sen. John Kennedy’s office) and Betty Carter (Owner –*We Care of Mansfield, LLC*). **Press Present**: None.

It was MOTIONED by **KERVIN D. CAMPBELL** and SECONDED by **MITCHELL L. LEWIS** to approve the minutes of the **May 28, 2019 *special*** City Council meeting and dispense with the reading. Motion Passed Unanimously.

It was MOTIONED by **MITCHELL L. LEWIS** and SECONDED by **KERVIN D. CAMPBELL** to approve the payment of current outstanding bills for this period. Motion Passed Unanimously.

The City Clerk next opened the floor to hear public comments from those in attendance to any item outlined on the meeting agenda. Since no comments were offered from the floor, the **Public Comments Period** was then subsequently closed.

Old Business:

Item A: It was MOTIONED by **KERVIN D. CAMPBELL** and SECONDED by **MITCHELL L. LEWIS** to approve the receipt and opening of all sealed public bids for the chemicals **Aluminum Sulfate Solution (Liquid Alum)** and **Caustic Soda Liquid 25% Diaphragm** for use at the city’s Toledo Bend Water Treatment Plant. For the chemical, **Aluminum Sulfate Solution**, the following bids were submitted and opened at this meeting: **Univar USA, Inc.** - \$284.94/dry ton delivered, **G E O Specialty Chemicals** -\$285.00/dry ton delivered, and **Chemtrade Chemicals US, LLC** -\$410.00/dry ton delivered. For the chemical **Caustic Soda Liquid 25% Diaphragm**, the following bids were submitted: **G E O Specialty Chemicals** – “NO BID”, **Premier Chemicals & Services** -\$655.00/dry ton delivered, **Univar USA, Inc.** - \$778.00/dry ton delivered, and **Harcros Chemicals** -\$895.00/dry ton delivered. The bids received will be taken under advisement, tabulated and a recommendation to accept the lowest responsible bidders will be offered at the City Council’s next regular meeting scheduled for Monday, June 24th. Motioned Passed Unanimously.

Item B: It was MOTIONED by **KERVIN D. CAMPBELL** and SECONDED by **MITCHELL L. LEWIS** to approve the receipt and opening of sealed public bids for the chemical **Aluminum Sulfate Solution (TOTES)** for use at the city's Wastewater Treatment Plant. For this chemical, the following bids were submitted and opened: *Industrial Research Corporation (I.R.C.)* - \$0.45/pound delivered, *Premier Chemicals & Services* -\$0.65/pound delivered, *Harcros Chemicals* –“NO BID”, *Univar USA, LLC* –“NO BID”, and *G E O Specialty Chemicals* –“NO BID”. The bids received will be taken advisement, tabulated and a recommendation to accept the lowest responsible bidders will be offered at the City Council's next regular meeting scheduled for Monday, June 24th. Motioned Passed Unanimously.

Item C: No other old business discussed.

New Business:

Item A: It was MOTIONED by **MARY J. GREEN** and SECONDED by **MITCHELL L. LEWIS** to accept a donation from *DeSoto Fire District No. 8* to the City of a 2008 Chevrolet Suburban LS ¾-Ton 4-Door 4-wheel drive vehicle. *Fire District No. 8* was updating their fleet, took this vehicle out of operation, and then formally offered same as a donation for inclusion to the *Mansfield Fire Department's* fleet. The appropriate insurance has been placed in force on the vehicle and the required transfer of ownership documents will be submitted to our local Dept. of Motor Vehicles office to consummate this transaction. Motion Passed Unanimously.

Item B: It was MOTIONED by **KERVIN D. CAMPBELL** and SECONDED by **MITCHELL L. LEWIS** to select the *Mansfield Enterprise & Interstate Progress* to serve as the city's Official Municipal Journal for fiscal year beginning **July 1, 2019** and ending **June 30, 2020**, pursuant LA R.S. 43:141(A). This statute mandates that, among other entities, city councils at their first meeting in **June** of each year, shall select a newspaper as Official Journal for its municipality for a term of one year. Two of the four qualifications of a newspaper to serve as an Official Journal of an entity is one, it shall have been published in an office physically located in the parish in which the body is located for a period of five (5) years preceding the selection and two, it shall have maintained a general paid circulation in the parish in which the body is located for five (5) consecutive years prior to the selection. The *Mansfield Enterprise* satisfies both of those qualifications, as well as the remaining two qualifications not mentioned here. Motion Passed Unanimously.

Item C: It was MOTIONED by **MARY J. GREEN** and SECONDED by **KERVIN D. CAMPBELL** to authorize the Mayor to enter in to and execute a Standard Form of Agreement Between Owner and Engineer for Professional Services with *BALAR Associates, Inc.* for the city's proposed project in relation to the Louisiana Community Development Block Grant (LCDBG) program for fiscal year 2020/2021. For this funding cycle, the City proposes to apply

for grant funds in the category of Sewer Treatment, which has a funding limit of \$1,200,000. If funded, the City will perform infrastructure improvements in both Sewer Treatment and Sewer Collection. However, in order to qualify for this funding limit, a larger percentage of the funds would need to be used to perform improvements in Sewer Treatment over Sewer Collection. Motion Passed Unanimously.

Item D: At this time, a proposal was presented by Police Chief Annette Blue and Assistant Police Chief Billy Locke to request approval for funding expenditures to perform upgrades in the Mansfield Police Department. Most immediately, the Department is in need of new bulletproof vests for all officers on the force. The current vests have expired and need to be replaced. The total cost of the vests to outfit all patrol officers is \$12,611.00. Department administrators have applied for a grant through the *Office of Justice Programs* (OJP) administered by the U.S. Dept. of Justice, requesting an allocation that would cover half of the total cost of the vests. It should be noted that one of the grant requirements is that wearing the vests will be mandatory at all times, while officers are on duty. Also, if the grant is approved, the Mansfield Police Department will be entered into the OJP's system in perpetuity, allowing for the funding of vests by this agency whenever a new police officer is hired. Presently, they await notification from the OJP as to whether the grant will be approved for funding. They have also requested corporate donations from various companies like *Chesapeake Energy*, *Encana Corporation* and a couple of others, to help underwrite this cost. The Department is already in possession of *Chesapeake's* corporate donation in the amount of 1,250.00, and is hopeful that other donors will approve an allocation toward this expenditure. Blue and Locke described the new vests as lighter weight than those currently worn and will blend in seamlessly with the officer's police uniforms. In addition, an upgrade is also needed to the Department's server. The current server was installed in 1999, and if not upgraded soon, the Department risk losing of their stored data. Finally, in-car computers are being considered for installation in our fleet of police patrol vehicles. Doing so will afford our officers the means to access any infraction currently reflected on a defendant's record regardless of the reason they were stopped. Adding to that would be the capability of running vehicle license plate numbers by each officer during a traffic stop, when presently license plate numbers are phoned in to a dispatcher at the Police Department. The officer must then wait for the dispatcher to share with the officer what information, if any, the license plate scan comes back with. Further, citations issued in our parishes around the State and even in certain Texas counties would reflect on the defendant's police record. Additionally, the new in-car computer systems would feature the capability of notifying the parents of juveniles that their teen has been stopped (for any reason) by a local law enforcement officer. Mr. **Mark Pierce**, Network Administrator for the *DeSoto Parish Sheriff's Office* attended this meeting and stated that their office already has and uses these in-car computer systems. The systems have become an extremely valuable resource for his organization. The City's part-time Fire Chief, Mrs. LaTarsha Shelton was also present and offered that *DeSoto Fire District No. 8* also utilizes

some version of this system and appreciates the ability to communicate in real time with other local law enforcement personnel and emergency responders. Total estimated cost to install both the server and the in-car computer systems is \$30,000.00. An amendment to the City's 2019 Operating Budget has been drafted and was presented to the City Council at this meeting for discussion and perusal

Item E: Proposed **Ordinance No. 1 of 2019** was introduced to the City Council, drafted to **amend** the city's Operating Budget of Revenue & Expenditures for FY 2019. If approved at the next Council meeting, it would amend certain revenue line items and operating expenditures in the Corporation, and a specified capital expenditure line item for the Fire Department's equipment purchases. It was MOTIONED by **KERVIN D. CAMPBELL** and SECONDED by **MITCHELL L. LEWIS** to authorize advertisement of the title of the proposed Ordinance in our journal's June 20th edition, and set a public hearing on same for June 24th. Motion Passed Unanimously.

Item F: No other new business discussed.

Comments from Mayor Mayweather and/or Council Members: During this period, the Mayor allowed Fire Chief LaTarsha Shelton to report on the status of the recent re-survey/evaluation of the city's Public Fire Protection Classification. The last re-survey for the City was performed in **2014** by Mr. **Randall K. Loe** of the *Property Insurance Association of Louisiana* (P.I.A.L.). The purpose of the survey is to gather information to determine the proper Classification for the City of Mansfield. This Classification is one of several elements used by member companies of the P.I.A.L. to develop fire insurance premiums. Chief Shelton reported that our Fire District has been under inspection for the past couple of months. The re-survey was completed on May 28th, and the results of the P.I.A.L. evaluation are expected to be received within the next 60 to 90 days. The City's current Classification is a Class 4 for residential and commercial properties. On an unrelated matter, Chief Shelton stated that her Department is in need of a new Rescue Truck. The current truck is in need of major repair and numerous repairs have already been performed on it. She will begin to search and see if the 'new' truck desired is on State contract. Mayor Mayweather expressed that it will be vital that city's governance continue to work in unity, as well as in harmony with other entities/agencies, if the city is going to promote progression. Alderwoman Green stated that she will remain in contact with state legislators, inquiring about any grants or other appropriations available to municipalities to help subsidize on-going infrastructure improvements projects.

With no further business to discuss, this meeting was declared adjourned at **5:14 p.m.** by MOTION from **MARY J. GREEN** and was SECONDED by **MITCHELL L. LEWIS**. Motion Passed Unanimously.

John H. Mayweather, Sr., Mayor
Marvin R. Jackson, Clerk